

**COUNTRY DATA: QATAR : Information from the CIA World Factbook**

## INTRODUCTION

Rules by the Al Thani family since the mid-1800s, Qatar transformed itself from a poor British protectorate noted mainly for pearling into a independent state with significant oil and natural gas revenues. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Qatari economy was crippled by a continuous siphoning off of petroleum revenues by the Amir, who has ruled the country since 1972. His son, the current Amir HAMAD bin Khalifa Al Thani, overthrew him in a bloodless coup in 1995. In 2001, Qatar resolved its longstanding border disputes with both Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. As of 2007, oil and natural gas revenues had enables Qatar to attain the second-highest per capita income in the world.

## GEOGRAPHY

Location	Middle East, peninsula bordering the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia
Area	total: 11,586 sq km Land: 11,586 sq km Water: 0 sq km Country comparison to the world: 165
Climate	arid; mild, pleasant winters; very hot, humid summers
Natural Resources	petroleum, natural gas, fish
Total Renewable Water Resources	0.1 cu km (1997)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 0.29 cu km/yr Per capita: 358 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	haze, dust storms, sandstorms common
Environmental Issues	limited natural fresh water resources are increasing dependence on large-scale desalination facilities

## PEOPLE

Population	840,926 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Arab 40%, Indian 18%, Pakistani 18%, Iranian 10%, other 14%
Religions	Muslim 77.5%, Christian 8.5%, other 14\$ (2004 census)
Languages	Arabic (official), English commonly used as second language

Literacy Rate	total: 89% Male: 89.1% Female: 88.6%
Major Infectious Diseases	
GOVERNMENT	
Type	Emirate
Independence	3 September 1971 (from the UK)
Constitution	ratifies by public referendum on 29 April 2003, endorsed by the Amir on 8 June 2004, effective on 9 June 2005
Legal System	based on Islamic and civil law codes; discretionary system of law controlled by the Amir, although civil codes are being implemented; Islamic law dominates family and personal matter; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	fruits, vegetables; poultry, dairy products, beef; fish
Industries	liquefied natural gas, crude oil production and refining, ammonia, fertilizers, petrochemicals, steel reinforcing bars, cement, commercial ship repair
Import commodities	machinery and transport equipment, food, chemicals
Import Partners	US 13.43%, Italy 8.34%, South Korea 8.33%, Japan 8.04%, Germany 7.31%, France 6.26%, UK 5.59%, China 5%, UAE 4.67%, Saudi Arabia 3.96% (2009)
Export Commodities	liquefied natural gas (LNG), petroleum products, fertilizers, steel
Export Partners	Japan 34.68%, South Korea 22.44%, Singapore 10.03%, India 4.86% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$145,300 (2010 est.) \$122,800 (2009 est.) \$113,300 (2008 est.)
Population below poverty line	NA%

\*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.